



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS 4) ✓
FPO San Francisco 96683

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From: Commanding Officer, USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)
To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1984

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.


W. E. NEWMAN

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USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS 4) COMMAND HISTORY

The USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS 4), known throughout the Western Pacific as the "ORIENT EXPRESS," welcomed 1984 while in port Yokosuka during a Selected Restricted Availability (SRA).

During the SRA, WHITE PLAINS received major equipment repairs to the ship's propulsion system, underway replenishment stations, received a new emergency diesel and outfitted with the Vulcan Phalanx Close-in-Weapons-System (CIWS). WHITE PLAINS became the first AFS and the only Seventh Fleet AFS to receive the CIWS. The SRA was officially completed on 12 April.

WHITE PLAINS departed Yokosuka on 13 April for local operations in the South China Sea. She conducted drills and ship qualification trials to refresh the crew and indoctrinate new crew members in carrying out the ship's mission.

WHITE PLAINS arrived in Sasebo, Japan on 19 April where the crew spent four days of liberty before getting underway for a one-day trip to Pusan, Korea. The ship arrived in Pusan on 24 April and stayed until 27 April. The ship spent the next three days underway enroute to Hong Kong. WHITE PLAINS arrived in Hong Kong on 30 April and departed on 04 May headed for to Yokosuka.

WHITE PLAINS returned to Yokosuka on 9 May for six days and prepared for the Black Ship Festival. On 15 May, WHITE PLAINS departed Yokosuka for Shimoda, serving as flagship for COMNAVFOR JAPAN, RADM McKay. A Dependent's Cruise was conducted in conjunction with the short transit from Yokosuka to Shimoda. The ship arrived in Shimoda at 1500 on the same day. For the next four days WHITE PLAINS represented the U. S. Navy at the festival which commemorates Commodore Perry's arrival in Shimoda. During the festival, over 1200 Japanese toured the ship.

WHITE PLAINS returned to Yokosuka on 19 May for the weekend and was underway on 21 May for the first week of Interim Refresher Training (IRFT). The ship held drills ranging from Abandon Ship to Underway Replenishment exercises and General Quarters. Although the IRFT was scheduled to last three weeks, WHITE PLAINS was able to return two days early by completing the criteria in an effective and expeditious manner. The ship received several "Bravo-Zulu's" for her performance during refresher training.

WHITE PLAINS remained in Yokosuka from 7 June to 25 June for upkeep. This period also afforded the crew an opportunity to finish their last minute preparations before shifting homeports to Guam. The ship was underway from her homeport of Yokosuka for the last time on 25 June.

On the morning of 29 June, WHITE PLAINS received aboard several dignitaries from Guam, including: Gov. Bordallo; Maj. Gen. Autery, Commander Third Air Division, from Anderson Air Force Base; and COMNAVMAR, Como. Hagen. The ship arrived in it's new homeport at 1000 on 29 June. The crew was welcomed by their families, candidates for Miss Guam, native dancers and several more dignitaries from the island. After a brief welcoming ceremony, WHITE PLAINS' sister villages of Chalan Pago-Ordot hosted a picnic at the USO beach.

WHITE PLAINS remained in her new homeport from 29 June until August 10, when Capt. William E. Newman relieved Capt Kenneth Carlsen as Commanding Officer of WHITE PLAINS. The ceremony was attended by Como. Paul Butcher, COMNAVSURFGRU WESTPAC.

The ship departed for her deployment to the Indian Ocean in support of Task Group 70.6 on 11 August. The ship arrived in Subic Bay, RP on 15 August, unloaded materials for the Battle Group, and completed a Command Inspection. The ship received an outstanding grade from COMNAVSURFGRU WESTPAC. Departing Subic Bay at 0900 on 20 August, the ship proceeded to Diego Garcia.

WHITE PLAINS visited Diego Garcia on three occasions while deployed in the Indian Ocean. WHITE PLAINS set a record during one onload of 2,165 pallets of material in less than 24 hours. It was the largest onload ever for Diego Garcia and WHITE PLAINS.

WHITE PLAINS was struck by tragedy when one of the embarked HH-46 helicopters crashed during vertical replenishment operations on 1 November, just one day before WHITE PLAINS officially detached from the Indian Ocean. The two pilots were recovered within minutes after the crash. After lengthy search and rescue operations, the two enlisted aircrewmen were listed as missing at sea. An investigation into the causes of the accident was conducted.

On 2 November, WHITE PLAINS detached from the Indian Ocean and proceeded to Subic Bay, RP. She arrived on 11 November and offloaded Indian Ocean retrograde and unloaded stores in preparation for FLEETEX 85. WHITE PLAINS departed Subic Bay on 18 November with the escort ships from the USS ENTERPRISE Battle Group.

From 18 November to 1 Dec and prior to returning to Guam, WHITE PLAINS participated in FLEETEX-85 with the combined forces of the CARL VINSON, ENTERPRISE and MIDWAY battle groups. WHITE PLAINS served as Commodity Manager for the exercise.

WHITE PLAINS arrived in her homeport, Guam, on Friday, 7 December. While in Guam, WHITE PLAINS completed a 3-M inspection with an overall grade of 93.9%. WHITE PLAINS' crew celebrated Christmas and welcomed the New Year in Guam.

CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

January 1, 1984	WHITE PLAINS is in SRA.
April 13, 1984	WHITE PLAINS officially completes SRA.
April 19, 1984	WHITE PLAINS visits Sasebo, Japan.
April 24, 1984	WHITE PLAINS visits Pusan, Korea.
April 30, 1984	WHITE PLAINS visits Hong Kong.
May 14, 1984	WHITE PLAINS departs Yokosuka as COMNAVFOR JAPAN's Flag ship with RADM McKay and dependents aboard. Spends the next four days participating in the Shimoda Black Ship Festival.
May 20, 1984	WHITE PLAINS begins Interim Refresher Training.
June 25, 1984	WHITE PLAINS departs Yokosuka and heads for Guam for the homeport shift.
June 29, 1984	WHITE PLAINS arrives in Guam.
August 10, 1984	Capt. William E. Newman relieves Capt. Kenneth Carlsen as Commanding Officer during Change of Command Ceremony.
August 11, 1984	WHITE PLAINS departs Guam for deployment with Task Group 70.6 in the Indian Ocean.
August 15, 1984	WHITE PLAINS arrives in Subic Bay, RP to load provisions. Undergoes Command Inspection.
August 30, 1984	WHITE PLAINS arrives Diego Garcia and conducts first replenishment of her deployment to the Indian Ocean.
September 4, 1984	WHITE PLAINS commences initial UNREPs with ENTERPRISE battle group.
September 11, 1984	Arrives Muscat, Oman, to load fresh provisions for battle group.
September 17, 1984	Arrives Muscat, Oman, to load fresh provisions for battle group.
September 29, 1984	Arrives Diego Garcia. Conducts largest onload in history of ship. Onloads 2165 pallets of supplies in under 24 hours.
October 14, 1984	Arrives Muscat, Oman, to load fresh provisions for battle group.

October 20, 1984	Arrives Diego Garcia to load fresh provisions for battle group.
November 1, 1984	HC-5 detachment 2, HH-46 helo crashes during VERTREP operations in Indian Ocean.
November, 2, 1984	WHITE PLAINS departs Indian Ocean for Subic Bay, RP.
November 12, 1984	WHITE PLAINS arrives in Subic Bay to onload provisions for FLEETEX-85.
November, 18, 1984	WHITE PLAINS commences FLEETEX-85 operations as Commodity Manager.
November 28, 1984	WHITE PLAINS arrives in Yokosuka, JA for last fresh provisions onload for ENTERPRISE battle group.
December 7, 1984	WHITE PLAINS returns to Guam homeport.
December 10, 1984	Completed 3-M inspection with a grade of 93.9%.

YEAR-END STATISTICS

Days Underway	192
Percent Underway	52 %
Miles Steamed	40,298
Number of replenishments	86
Connected Replenishments	35
Vertical Replenishments	61
Combined VERTREP/CONREP	12
Passengers transferred	270
Number of pallets delivered	6765
Total tonage delivered	4,060 short tons
Largest Diego Garcia on-load for WHITE PLAINS	2,165

Fuel Consumption

Total underway	2,796,130
Not underway	523,378
Transfers	448,559
Total fuel consumption	3,319,508